

The Gift of Forgiveness

December 7, 2014

Season of Giving • Message 2

HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER LIFE IN CHRIST • PRAY

Review

Everything good I have is a gift from God to make me a giver too.

TODAY WE CONSIDER A GIFT THAT IS OFTEN FORGOTTEN

The Gift of Forgiveness

“Forgive” is an interesting word...

for-give

for-get

for-go

for-lorn

for-bid

for-sake

“FOR-” INTENSIFIES THE NEGATIVE • WHEN SOMEONE DESERVES TO BE GIVEN SOMETHING

Forgiveness is the gift of **DOING NOTHING**
when someone deserves **SOMETHING BAD**.

I RELEASE MY CLAIM FOR REVENGE OR RESTITUTION

Forgiveness As God Sees It

NONE OF THE BIBLE WORDS HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS OURS / “WITHHOLDING”

salah – most common word when people ask for forgiveness

... if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will **forgive their sin** and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

HOWEVER, SALAH IS RELATED TO SALAL WHICH MEANS TO LIFT UP...

nasa – the word God uses in reference to himself

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and **forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin**. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6-7 NIV

GOD “LIFTS UP” THE WICKEDNESS

kiper – cover over, atone, appease

Yet he was merciful; he **forgave their iniquities** and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.

Psalms 78:38 NIV

aphiemi – leave behind, dismiss, reset (used even of divorce)

Matthew 18:10-35 (p. 688)

WE ARE CALLED TO BE A CONDUIT OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is **LIFTING GUILT**,
DEALING with it, and **LEAVING** it **BEHIND**.
PSYCHOLOGICALLY TRUE & EFFECTIVE • SEPARATING PERSON FROM THEIR GUILT

How Forgiveness Happens

A Christmas Story...

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20-21 NIV

HOW DO YOU SAVE SOMEONE FROM SINS ALREADY DONE? • LIFT, DEAL, LEAVE BEHIND

A Miracle Story...

Mark 2:1-11 (p. 700)

HOW DO YOU FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO HASN'T REPENTED?

LIFT, DEAL, LEAVE BEHIND • LOWERED A SINNER, WALKS OUT FORGIVEN

A Sacrifice Story...

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Luke 23:34 NIV

HOW DO YOU FORGIVE THE HARD-HEARTED? • LIFT, DEAL, LEAVE BEHIND

An Ancient Prophecy...

Surely he **took up** our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV

HOW HE FORGIVES? • LIFTS THE GUILT ONTO HIMSELF, COVERS IT IN TOMB, LEAVES IT BEHIND.

Take it Home

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**”

John 20:21-23 NIV

Through Jesus, God gives me the gift of **FORGIVENESS**
that I might **GIVE** it to **OTHERS** too.

RECEIVE IT AND GIVE IT!